Lady Doctor in the Muvattupuzha Hospital.

21. ✻ MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the need for appointing a lady doctor in the Muvattupuzha Hospital was ever before submitted to them by the inhabitants of Muvattupuzha?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: Yes.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know the action taken on the petitions for the need for a Lady Doctor in the Muvattupuzha Hospital?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: No definite action was taken.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Do not the Government think that conditions have now changed and the number of patients warrants the appointment of a lady doctor there?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS M. POONEN LUKOSE: We have statistics for 1111 and 1112. These do not show that conditions have changed.

Remission of land tax.

22. ✻ MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a petition from the inhabitants of Koothattukulam pakuthy, Muvattupuzha taluk, this year 1113, praying for remission of land tax on the ground that their lands were adversely affected and crops failed on account of severe drought for long and untimely rains in 1113;

(*b*) the action, if any, taken on it; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that other pakuthies of Muvattupuzha taluk also were subject to similar failure of crops in 1113?

MR. K GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Petitions were received from the inhabitants of the pakuthies of Mulavoor, Ramangalam, Arakuzha and Thirumaradi for remission of tax due to loss of crops and for facilities for agriculture through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Traffic Department.

23. ✻ MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Tovala cum Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the strength of the Traffic Department; and

(*b*) whether they follow their normal duties after the indroduction of the State Transport from Nagercoil to Trivandrum?

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*):

(*a*) Inspectors—7
Head constables—28.
Constables—234.

(*b*) Yes; but their strength in the Nagercoil and Trivandrum Sub-Divisions has since been reduced and they now control the traffic on the feeder routes between Trivandrum and Nagercoil.

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